

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 INSE-00 VO-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 SSO-00 /034 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5118

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 KUALA LUMPUR 5390

SECSTATE FOR DHA/ORM, GENEVA PASS TO LOWMAN, HONG KONG
PASS TO FELDMAN

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: ACCELERATED HANDLING OF BOAT REFUGEES IN MALAYSIA

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 5171; (B) STATE 120222,
(C) KUALA LUMPUR 4418, (D) KUALA LUMPUR 3603
(E) TELECONS-5 MAY, CUSHING-GETTIER, BARNES-GETTIER,
FELDMAN-GETTIER

1. A REVIEW OF REFTTEL (A) INDICATES THAT THE RATE OF ARRIVAL OF
BOAT REFUGEES IN MONTH OF MAY AGAIN SURPASSED THE THREE
THOUSAND MARK (3286 - OF WHOM WE KNOW). SITREP ALSO
REPORTS AN IN-CAMP BOAT REFUGEE POPULATION OF 10,431 FOR
MALAYSIA. PZEM (E) ORREFTTEL (A) NOTES THAT, AT PRESENT,
POST AWAITS VOLAG ASSURANCES ON 2881 INS-APPROVED REFUGEES.
THE "INS-APPROVED" FIGURE SHOULD CLIMB TO 3500 IN A WEEK'S
TIME, FOLLOWING TABULATION OF INS ACCEPTANCES AFTER
MOST RECENT INS CIRCUIT OF MALAYSIAN CAMPS.

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2. SOBERING THOUGH ABOVE MENTIONED STATISTICS MAY BE, POST IS
CONFIDENT THAT DEPARTURES FROM MALAYSIA UNDER U.S. PROGRAM
CAN AND WILL CONTINUE TO GROW IN VOLUME. IN MAY, FOR
EXAMPLE, 718 BOAT REFUGEES LEFT MALAYSIA UNDER IPP-78 AND
ON IMMIGRANT VISAS. THAT HIGH MARK FOR DEPARTURES WILL
BE EXCEEDED IN JUNE, BARRING ANOTHER AIRLINE STRIKE.

3. AS HAS BEEN POINTED OUT (REF TELECONS) AND REFTTEL (C), GIVEN A VOLUME OF ACVA SPONSORSHIP ASSURANCES ROUGHLY COMMENSURATE TO RATE OF ARRIVALS HERE, WE WOULD SET NO UPWARD LIMIT ON NUMBER OF DEPARTUT LM PER MOMQTWN FROM POST.

4. AS TO HOW DEPARTURE VOLUME WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED, FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED:

(A) UNHCR WILL REQUIRE STAFF IN KUALA LUMPUR TO WORK WEEKENDS, EAST COAST REPRESENTATION WILL BE AUGMENTED BY TWO ADDITIONAL OFFICERS; MEANS OF CONVEYANCE OF U.S. DEPARTURE LISTS TO CAMPS WILL BE BY SEPCIAL COURIER INSTEAD OF BY LETTER MAIL; TRANSIENT CENTER SPACE WILL BE INCREASED TO 1,000 CAPACITY.

(B) MALAYSIAN RED CRESCENT STAFF WILL BE AUGMENTED BY SIX PAID LOGISTICS STAFF.

(C) ICEM WILL INCREASE VOLUME OF PRE-DEPARTURE PHYSICALS, TO 350 PER WEEK, TO START. ICEM MUST NEGOTIATE REFUGEE FARE RATES WITH KLM, CHINA AIRLINES, BRITISH AIRWAYS,

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES, P.I.A., SABENA, AND U.T.A., ALL OF WHICH FLY FROM KUALA LUMPUR OR SINGAPORE BUT ARE NOT, AS A RULE, USED FOR REFUGEE MOVEMENT. THISC7)\$ 4317843 8,- PRINCIPAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE R.P. JAPAN, SINGAPORE, ROC AND THE NETHERLANDYRTO ALLOW REFUGEES TO REMAIN IN-TRANSIT UNTIL FIRST AVAILABLE FLIGHT ONWARDS TO U.S. AN ADDITIONAL REFUGEE ENTRY POINT IN ATLANTA, TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACCOMMODATE THE BRUSSELS-ATLANTA LEG FIA SABENA) WOULD HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED AS WELL.

(D) INS SHOULD ASSIGN THREE LONG-TERM TDY AND ONE BACK-UP OFFICER FOR 25,000 PROGRAM.

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES (PARA 4) COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT PROGRAM COST INCREASES PER REFUGEE. FOR EXAMPLE, UNHCR HAS ALREADY MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL OFFICERS. MRCS STAFF AUGMENTATION WOULD COST ONLY US\$1,050 PER MONTH AND ICEM MINOR STAFF INCREASES NECESSARY TO HANDLE INCREASED DEPARTURES EX K.L. WOULD PROBABLY BE COMMENSURATELY INEXPENSIVE. MORE TRANSIENT CENTER SPACE CAN BE HAD AT THE RATE OF US\$2.00 PER REFUGEE PER DAY FROM UNHCR BUDGET. A SUITABLE SITE IS BEING SOUGHT BY MRCS.

6. MORE EXPENSIVE, WOULD BE THE ACQUISITION OF THREE 2 1/2 TON TRUCKS (OR EQUIVALENT BUSES) WHICH MRCS FEELS IT WILL NEED TO HANDLE DEPARTURE VOLUME AT RATE OF ABOUT 1500 PER MONTH IN U.S. PROGRAM. UNHCR, IT IS FELT, COULD ABSORB THAT COST (EST USJAEYNPPPLM AN X-RAY UNIT, TO BE EMPLOYED FOS100 IN-CAMP PHYSICALS PEGSEAY, IS NOT FELT, AT PRESENT, TO BE JUSTIFIED. MACHINE AND ACCOUTREMENTS WOULD COST VICINITY

US\$25,000. GOM FREE X-RAY FACILITIES IN KUALA LUMPUR CAN NOW
HANDLE MORE THAN 500 REFUGEES PER WEEK.

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O 090130Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5119
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 KUALA LUMPUR 5390

SECSTATE FOR DHA/ORM, GENEVA PASS TO LOWMAN, HONG KONG PASS
TO FELDMAN

7. THOUGH A ROSY PICTURE OF POTENTIALITIES OF MALAYSIAN
PROCESSING SET-UP IS PORTRAYED, MEANS TO PUSHING DEPARTURES
TO 1200 MARK BY END OF JULY ARE JUST THAT, POTENTIALITIES.
WHILE ICEM AND MRCS ON-BOARD WITH "CAN DO" ATTITUDES AND ARE
READY, LOCALLY, TO IMPLEMENT MEANS FOR DRASTICALLY ENHANCED
DEPARTURES, UNHVLIMOST SKEPTICAL, EVEN PESSIMISTIC ABOUT
MOVING MORE REFUGEES. IN FAIRNESS, REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
SAMPATKUMAR'S RETICENCE TO PLAN FOR GREATLY INCREASED
DEPARTURES MAY BE JUSTIFIED.

8. FOR MONTHS, VOLUNTARY AGENCY SPONSORSHIPS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED
HERE AT RATE OF 100-150 PER WEEK. DURING PERIOD 12-19 MAY,
NUMBERS SURGED TO 543. BUOYED BY THIS HUGE AND PROMISING
INFLUX OF ASSURANCES, REF:OPS APPROACHED UNHCR WITH PROPOSALS
TO STREAMLINE THAT ORGANIZATIONS'S PRECEDURES IN ORDER TO
ACCOMMODATE MORE DEPARTURES (PARA 4). MR. SAMPATKUMAR DEMURED.
ACVA ASSURANCE RECEIPT SUBSEQUENTLY FELL TO 170 PER WEEK FOR
NEXT TWO SITREP REPORTING PERIODS.

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9. IF UNHCR IS TO BE CONVINCED TO EXERCISE EMPHASIS IN COORDINATING ROLE NECESSARY TO FIND MEANS INCREASE DEPARTURES, REFUGEE OPERATIONS REQUIRES SPONSORSHIP-IN-HAND TO STIMULATE SUCH. WHILE ICEM AND MRCS STRUGGLED SUCCESSFULLY TO PUSH DEPARTURES PAST 700 IN MAY, PRESENT PROCESSING MACHINERY WAS STRAINED TO LIMIT IN ACCOMMODATING THOSE DEPARTURES. IF MEANS TO ACHIEVING A DEPARTURE RATE COMMENSURATE TO ARRIVALS ARE TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN TIME TO COPE WITH ARRIVALS, POST REQUIRES ACVA SPONSORSHIPS FOR INS-APPROVED REFUGEES AND REQUIRES THEM NOW. TO ASK UNHCR, AND EVEN THE EXCELLENT ICEM AND MRCS ORGANIZATIONS TO GEAR-UP WITHOUT THEM IS FELT TO BE UNFAIR, AND COULD BE CONSIDERED, FROM THEIR POINTS OF VIEW, TO BE MANAGERIALLY UNSOUND.

10. WHILE POST IS WELL AWARE OF DELICACY OF RELATIONSHIP WITH ACVA AND OF COMPLEXITIES ENTAILED SPONSORSHIP ACCURAL, IT IS FELT THAT ONLY TIMELY RECEIPT, IN VOLUME, OF SPONSORSHIP APPROVALS WILL AVERT RESORTING TO MORE EXTREME MEASURES, REF (D), THAT A CONTINUING BUILD UP IN MALAYSIAN BOAT CAMP POPULATIONS MIGHT EVENTUALLY REQUIRE.
ROSENTHAL

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